



MONTANA  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATION

October 28, 2011

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
334 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C.

*In the Matter of*

Connect America Fund

WC Docket No. 10-90

Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates  
for Local Exchange Carriers,  
Call Blocking by Carriers

WC Docket No. 07-135

Developing an Unified Inter-carrier  
Compensation Regime

CC Docket No. 01-92

Rules and Regulations Implementing  
the Truth in Caller ID Act of 2009

WC Docket No. 11-39

Dear Ms. Dortch,

On October 26, 2011, the undersigned met with Margaret Dailey and Chris Killion of the Enforcement Bureau; Bill Dever and Richard Hovey of the Wireline Competition Bureau; and John Healy of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau to urge immediate action by the FCC against telecommunications providers who are directly and indirectly preventing telecommunications traffic from properly terminating on local networks.

Mr. Feiss commended the Commission for holding a Call Termination Workshop on October 18, and reiterated several of the concerns raised by panelists who presented comments at the Workshop. Mr. Feiss stressed to the Call Termination Task Force the urgency with which rural telecommunications providers and their consumers view the situation. The failure of certain telecommunications providers to terminate calls on local networks across the country is increasing; rural carriers and their consumers are being harmed; and the time for concrete action by the Commission is long overdue.

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Mr. Feiss recommended, among other things, that the Commission issue an Enforcement Advisory, warning all carriers, including originating carriers, responsible for failure of calls to terminate on local networks that the Commission will take all necessary remedial action available. Further, Mr. Feiss suggested that originating carriers are responsible for the proper termination of calls that originate on their networks, and that they monitor all calls through to the NPA/NXX level to ensure their proper termination.

In addition to the above recommendations, there was a discussion about requiring that ring-back tone may not be sent to the calling party's device except from the terminating switch. That is, the call must be set up on the terminating switch before the terminating switch—and not an intermediary softswitch, for example—sends the ring tone back to the originating caller. Such a requirement would not necessarily resolve the call termination problem, but it would send the proper signal to the consumer that it is the originating—not terminating—carrier that is responsible for the failure of calls to complete on local networks.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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